

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims

1. (Currently amended) A network stack interface for communication between software stack layers during network storage data transfer, wherein the network stack interface is defined for communication between a transport layer and any higher layer in the software stack layers, the network stack interface comprising:

a header portion defining characteristics of the network stack interface; and

a buffer descriptor defining data, the buffer descriptor including a memory address pointer to the data, wherein information and the memory address pointer is passed between software stack layers via the network stack interface that is defined between the transport layer and any higher layer;

a first target software stack layer creates the network stack interface and passes the network stack interface to another software stack layer, and the buffer descriptor ~~being~~ is one of a plurality of buffer descriptors, ~~that defines the data that is common to the plurality of buffer descriptors, and the plurality of buffer descriptors define transport layer header data~~

wherein a selected one of the plurality of buffer descriptors stores a memory address and length of a buffer and references the memory address and length of the buffer to a next selected one of the plurality of buffer descriptors.

2. (Currently amended) A network stack interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the header portion includes a common header portion and a layer specific header portion, the specific header portion defining characteristics utilized by a particular related ~~network~~ software stack layer.

3. (Currently amended) A network stack interface as recited in claim 1, wherein a selected one of the plurality of buffer descriptors ~~each buffer descriptor~~ further includes buffer length data, the buffer length data defining a size for the data referenced by the memory address pointer.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) A network stack interface as recited in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 21, wherein the command data is SCSI command data.
7. (Currently amended) A network stack interface as recited in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein a buffer descriptor from the plurality of buffer descriptors defines storage layer header data.
8. (Previously presented) A network stack interface as recited in claim 7, wherein the storage layer header data is storage encapsulation protocol (SEP) header data.
9. (Previously presented) A network stack interface as recited in claim 7, wherein a buffer descriptor from the plurality of buffer descriptors defines transport layer header data.
10. (Previously presented) A network stack interface as recited in claim 9, wherein the transport layer data is simple transport protocol (STP) header data.
11. -17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A network stack interface for communication between software stack layers during network storage data transfer, wherein the network stack interface is defined to communicate between a transport layer and any higher layer within the software stack layers, the network stack interface comprising:

a header portion defining characteristics of the network stack interface; and

a plurality of buffer descriptors, each buffer descriptor defining common data, the plurality of buffer descriptors including [[a]] memory address pointers to the common data, wherein information is passed between software stack layers via the network stack interface, that is defined in the transport layer and any higher layer, wherein the buffer descriptors further include buffer length data, the buffer length data defining a size for the common data referenced by the memory address pointers.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A network stack layer interface as recited in claim 1, wherein a buffer descriptor from the plurality of buffer descriptors defines command data.